



**Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, September 14, 2005

For Information Contact Public Affairs
SANDY RAYNOR
Telephone: (602) 514-7625
Cell: (602) 525-2681

13 BOSNIANS LIVING IN PHOENIX CHARGED WITH IMMIGRATION FRAUD

PHOENIX – U.S. Attorney Paul K. Charlton, along with Special Agent in Charge Jana Monroe, FBI Phoenix, and Roberto Medina, Special Agent in Charge, Arizona office of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced today the unsealing of 13 indictments of 13 individuals from Bosnia for charges related to providing fraudulent information on their immigration paperwork. All those indicted are charged with Fraud or Misuse of Visas, Permits, and Other Documents; some of those indicted are also charged with Perjury. Seven additional individuals are currently in administrative immigration proceedings by ICE. The table below shows the names of those indicted and the federal charges against them.

All are native and citizens of the former Yugoslavia, now Bosnia-Herzegovina. Due to the atrocities committed by all sides during the Bosnian War from 1992 to 1995, Bosnians who seek refuge in the U.S. are required to declare in detail all military service, including service in the Serbian Army. While under oath, those charged made false and fraudulent statements regarding their Serbian military service that allowed them to obtain immigration benefits and move to the United States.

United States Attorney Paul K. Charlton said of the charges, "We will aggressively prosecute those who lie about their military service in order to fraudulently obtain entry into the United States."

"We will not allow the United States to become a sanctuary for those using fraud and deception to qualify for refugee status," said Roberto G. Medina, special agent-in charge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's office of investigations in Arizona. "These individuals willfully concealed prior service in the military and this raises serious questions about their basic claims to eligibility."

Jana Monroe, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI office in Phoenix added that, "America offers freedom and protection for all those coming across its border. The FBI's ultimate goals of being involved in such an investigation are to establish a higher level of security for our country and help to maintain the integrity of the process in which individuals can reside in the United States. These indictments are the result of intensive investigative efforts and cooperation between the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Federal Bureau of Investigation."

-MORE-

Defendant Name, age, case number and trial date	Important Dates	Charge(s)	Maximum Penalty(ies)
Blagojevic, Mladen Age 34 CR05-0674-PHX-DGC Trial Date: not set	Indictment: July 6 IA on Sep 13 DH, Arraignment and Status Hearing on Sep 16 at 11:30 am	Fraud or Misuse of Visas, Permits, and Other Documents	10 years in prison; \$250,000 fine
Dragic, Nenad Age 55 CR05-0668-PHX-SMM Trial Date: Nov 1	Indictment: July 6 IA on Sep 12 DH/PH Sep 16 at 10:30 am	Fraud or Misuse of Visas, Permits, and Other Documents & Perjury	10 years in prison; \$250,000 fine & 5 years in prison; \$250,000 fine
Gujic, Milenko Age 49 CR05-0664-PHX-FJM Trial Date: Nov 1	Indictment: July 6 IA on Sep 12 DH/PH Sep 14 at 1:30 pm	Fraud or Misuse of Visas, Permits, and Other Documents	10 years in prison; \$250,000 fine
Gujic, Mitra Age 48 CR05-0666-PHX-MHM Trial Date: Oct 25	Indictment: July 6 IA on Sep 12 DH/PH Sep 14 at 1:30 pm	Fraud or Misuse of Visas, Permits, and Other Documents	10 years in prison; \$250,000 fine
Hercegovac, Rajko Age 47 CR05-0665-PHX-MHM Trial date: not set	Indictment: July 6 IA on Sep 12 DH/PH Sep 16 at 11:00 am Status Hearing also on Sep 15	Fraud or Misuse of Visas, Permits, and Other Documents	10 years in prison; \$250,000 fine
Hercegovac, Risto Age 42 CR05-0641-PHX-MHM Trial date: Oct 25	Indictment: July 6 IA on Sep 12 DH/PH Sep 16 at 9:30 am	Fraud or Misuse of Visas, Permits, and Other Documents	10 years in prison; \$250,000 fine
Krstic, Momcilo Age 54 CR05-877-PHX-NVW Trial date: Nov 1	Indictment: Aug 30 IA on Sep 13 DH and Status Hearing on Sep 15 at 2:00 pm	Fraud or Misuse of Visas, Permits, and Other Documents & Perjury	10 years in prison; \$250,000 fine & 5 years in prison; \$250,000 fine

-MORE-

Ninkovic, Rajko Age 63 CR05-0669-PHX-SRB Trial date: Nov 2	Indictment: July 6 IA on Sep 12 DH/PH Sep 20 at 3:30 pm	Fraud or Misuse of Visas, Permits, and Other Documents	10 years in prison; \$250,000 fine
Spiric, Radenko Age 38 CR05-0671-PHX-MHM Trial date: Oct 25	Indictment: July 6 IA on Sep 12 DH/PH Sep 16 at 10:00 am	Fraud or Misuse of Visas, Permits, and Other Documents & Perjury	10 years in prison; \$250,000 fine & 5 years in prison; \$250,000 fine
Spiric, Vitomir Age 34 CR05-876-PHX-EHC Trial Date: not set	Indictment: Aug 30 IA on Sep 12 DH, Status Hearing & Arraignment on Sep 15 10:30 am	Fraud or Misuse of Visas, Permits, and Other Documents & Perjury	10 years in prison; \$250,000 fine & 5 years in prison; \$250,000 fine
Stankovic, Nikola Age 43 CR05-0667-PHX-DCG Trial date: not set	Indictment: July 6 IA on Sep 13 DH/PH Sep 15 at 4:00 pm	Fraud or Misuse of Visas, Permits, and Other Documents	10 years in prison; \$250,000 fine
Tojic, Savo Age 51 CR05-0672-PHX-NVW Trial date: Nov 1	Indictment: July 6 IA on Sep 13 DH was waived	Fraud or Misuse of Visas, Permits, and Other Documents & Perjury	10 years in prison; \$250,000 fine & 5 years in prison; \$250,000 fine
Vidakovic, Cvijan Age 53 CR05-0670-PHX-JAT Trial date: not set	Indictment: July 6 IA on Sep 13 DH/PH Sep 16 at 1: 30 pm	Fraud or Misuse of Visas, Permits, and Other Documents (two counts) & Perjury	10 years in prison; \$250,000 fine for each of two counts & 5 years in prison; \$250,000 fine

Note: All dates on the above chart are in 2005. The IA is the initial appearance in federal court. The arraignment coincided with that in most cases, unless otherwise indicated. The DH is the detention hearing; PH is the Preliminary Hearing.

The maximum penalties are listed for the charges in the above table. In determining an actual sentence, the assigned judges will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

-MORE-

The investigation in this case was conducted by the FBI and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The prosecution was handled by Andrew C. Pacheco and Lisa J. Settel, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: See above chart
RELEASE NUMBER: 2005-160

#